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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/815,999

04/02/2004

Jim Vogeley

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7278

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7590

09/29/2006

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EXAMINER

AGUIRRECHEA, JAYDI A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/815,999

Applicant(s)

VOGELEY, JIM

Examiner

Jaydi A. Aguirrechea

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-54, 57-91, 93-107 and 110-152 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-47, 65-90, 95-99 and 118-152 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-13, 15-17, 48-54, 57-63, 91, 93, 94, 100-107 and 110-116 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 14, 64 and 117 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-4, 9, 12-13, 48, 52-54, 59, 62, 63, 93, 94, 100, 101, 105-107, 112, 115 and 116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Araki (US 4594526).

Araki discloses drive circuit that produces a drive signal for a device having a piezoelectric actuator (10) and applies the drive signal to the piezoelectric actuator, wherein the drive circuit is arranged to change dynamically the drive signal in dependence upon a sensed operational parameter of the device (abstract) during real time operation of the device.

With regards to claims 2 and 4, the circuit elements 10, 44, 48, 46, 50, 52, 40, 42, 18, 20 and 22 constitute a closed loop that makes the displacement waveform of the bimorph 10 saw-toothed when the signal f is saw-toothed.

Regarding claim 3, the signal comprises charge packets.

Claims 9, 12-13, 48, 53, 59, 62, 63, 93, 94, 100, 101, 105, 106, 112, 115 and 116 are rejected for the same reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

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such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 7, 10, 57, 60, 110, and 113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Araki.

Araki discloses the claimed invention as explained above.

However, Araki fails to disclose the sensed operational parameter of the device being the resonance of the piezoelectric actuator.

Araki discloses that drive signal depends upon a sensed parameter. It is known in the art that the piezoelectric actuators are more efficient when driven at a frequency close to the resonant frequency of the device. The resonance of a piezoelectric actuator is a physical property of the device, and therefore, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention was made to select the resonance of the piezoelectric actuator as the physical parameter to be sensed in order to generate a driving frequency close to the range of the resonance frequency of the device and provide an efficient device.

3. Claims 8, 11, 58, 61, 111 and 114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Araki.

Araki discloses a driving circuit for driving a piezoelectric device based on a sensed parameter.

However, Araki fails to disclose such parameter being temperature.

The broad teaching of Araki is that a drive signal could be controlled and determined based on a sensed parameter. It is the Examiner's position that it would have obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to sense a parameter, other than distance and such as temperature, to

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determine and control the driving signal as necessitated by the specific requirements of a particular application.

4. Claims 15-17, 49-51, 91, 102-104 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Araki.

Araki discloses a driving circuit for driving a piezoelectric device based on a sensed parameter, but fails to disclose the piezoelectric device being a piezoelectric pump. Araki also fails to disclose the driving signal varying over time to deliver a non-continuous dosage of fluid.

First, it should be noted that it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex Parte Masham*, 2 USPQ F.2d 1647 (1987).

Second, since Araki does not disclose the piezoelectric device being a piezoelectric pump, the deliver of a non-continuous dosage of fluid is not disclosed either. However, Araki's driving signal depending upon a sensed parameter would allow a non-continuous dosage of fluid to be delivered in the case where the driven piezoelectric element is a piezoelectric pump. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use the driving control system as disclosed by Araki to drive a piezoelectric pump and to deliver a non-continuous dosage of fluid.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 14, 64 and 117 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The references of the Prior Art of Record fail to teach or suggest either alone or in obvious combination the limitations as set forth in claims 14, 64 and 117, and specifically comprising the limitation of the signal being obtained from a user input device.

Conclusion


7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jaydi A. Aguirrechea whose telephone number is 571-272-2018. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren E. Schuberg can be reached on 571-272-2044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JAA
9/25/06


Jaydi Aguirrechea
Patent Examiner